



Subject: Annual Notification for Sonoma County Water Agency's 2010 Stream Maintenance Projects

Dear Participating Agency,

Enclosed is the Sonoma County Water Agency's (SCWA) Stream Maintenance Program's (SMP) Annual Notification Report (ANR) for the 2011 stream maintenance activities. The following information is provided in this notification packet:

- Project List and Locations
- Project Designs
- Summary of Maintenance Project Sizes, Extents, and Potential Effects
- Annual Mitigation Plan
- Annual Sediment Disposal Plan

We have also included additional information to supplement the 2011 ANR that are specific to the terms and conditions of the California Department of Fish and Game's Master Agreement but are also useful for the rest of the participating agencies to evaluate the proposed projects. These additional items include:

- Maps identifying location of planned maintenance work in relation to known sensitive species/habitat as represented on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as well as maps showing the 2011 project sites in relation to known California Tiger Salamander occurrences. (Follows Section 3 of the ANR)
- Schedule and listing of pre-construction surveys to be completed for 2010 projects; and
- CNDDB Forms for new observations of special status species.

Additionally, to consolidate the reporting effort to regulating agencies specific materials requested for CDFG notification are included in Appendix A and include:

- DFG Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Form (FG 2023);

- Annual Notification Checklist For DFG MLSAA;
- Check for Annual Master Agreement Fee; and
- CD containing and e-copy of the SCWA 2010 Annual Notification Packet

The enclosed documents should fulfill the reporting requirements outlined the following permits obtained for the SMP:

- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Notification Number 1600-2006-0254-3
- Consistency Determination Number 2080-2010-029-03, 8/6/10
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (NCRWQCB)
- Order No. R1-2009-0049
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region (SFRWQCB)
- Order No. R2-2011-020
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, Russian River Biological Opinion, Zone 1A BO, Tracking No. F/SWR/2006/07316
- NMFS, Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds Biological Opinion, Zones 2A, 3A. Tracking No. 2009/03082, Corps File No. 2009-00136N,
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. 2009-00079N, Zone 1A
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. ...TBD., Zone 2A, 3A
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Programmatic Biological Opinion for SMP, USFWS PBO Reference No. 81420-2009-F-0788-1

Overview of 2011 Maintenance Projects

Three localized sediment removal projects, nine reach-scale sediment removal projects, and two bank stabilization and repair projects are planned for 2011. The 2011 activities also include clearing of sediment from six sediment basins and four reservoir inlets. These maintenance projects are necessary to restore conveyance capacity and maintain proper function of SCWA facilities. All of the projects will be conducted in accordance with the impact avoidance and minimization approaches described in the SMP Manual (Chapter 5) and with the application of program BMPs as described in Chapter 7 of the SMP Manual. The 2011 routine maintenance projects include the following:

Localized Scale Sediment Removal Projects

- Bloomfield Creek 1: (concrete portion near Stormy's Restaurant)
- Laguna de Santa Rosa 5 and 6: immediately upstream and downstream of East Cotati Ave.
- Windsor Creek 1: at culverts downstream of Windsor Rd.

Reach Scale Sediment Removal Projects

- Austin Creek 3: between Boas Dr. and Jack London Dr
- Coleman Creek 2: Snyder Lane to Cook Creek confluence.
- Corona Creek Reach 1: between Corona Creek Reach 2 and Capri Creek Reach 2.
- Fryer Creek 2 & 3: 4th St to MacArthur St.
- Gossage 1: Laguna de Santa Rosa to Lowell Ave. .
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Reach 1: between Stony Point Rd and Llano Road.
- Santa Rosa Creek 2: upstream of Willowside Rd.
- Todd Channel 3 & 4: downstream of Todd Road crossing.
- Washington 3: upstream of Madison St.

Sediment Basin/ Instream Basin /Reservoir Inlet Clearing

- Adobe Creek Sediment Basin: clearing sediment and vegetation at the Adobe Creek basin (Adobe Creek Reach 2).
- Cook Creek Sediment Basin: clearing sediment and debris at the basin (Cook Creek Reach 2).
- Copeland Creek at Country Club Dr.: clearing sediment and debris along the instream Copeland Creek basin located at the crossing at Country Club Road, Reach 3 & 4.
- Copeland Creek at Snyder Ln.: sediment removal at the Copeland Creek instream basin located at the Snyder Lane crossing, Reach 4 & 5.
- Five Creek at Snyder Ln: sediment removal at the Snyder Lane Crossing Reach 1.
- Wilfred Creek: sediment removal at Wilfred Creek instream basin located on Reach 1, downstream of the culvert outfall at Snyder Lane.
- Brush Creek Reservoir
- Piner Creek Reservoir
- Matanzas Creek Reservoir
- Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake)

Bank Stabilization Projects

- Fryer Creek Reach 4: 20 ft long bank repair located at Andreux St.
- Todd Creek Reach 4: 73 ft long bank repair located approximately 160 ft upstream of Hunter Creek confluence.

Sections 1 through 3 of this Annual Notification packet contain project descriptions, project maps, site plans, site photographs, and additional documentation and reference materials.

In addition to these 2011 maintenance activities, several projects that were previously permitted in 2009 and 2010 will be completed in 2011. These on-going projects include:

- 3 reach scale sediment removal projects (Corona Creek 1, Todd Creek 3 & 4, and Washington Creek 3);
- 1 bank repair project; (Todd Creek 4 near confluence with Hunter Creek); and
- 4 reservoir clearing projects (Brush Creek, Matanzas Creek, Piner, and Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake)).

For project sites with recurring sediment removal needs, sediment basins, concrete stream segments, instream basins and reservoir inlets, SCWA will mitigate for the initial establishment of the basin but not for following removals. For the 2011 field season this includes Adobe 2, Cook 1, Copeland 4-5, Copeland 3-4, Wilfred 1, Five 1, as well as the reservoir inlets at Piner, Brush, Matanzas, and Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake).

On-Site and Off-Site Mitigation for Maintenance Projects

Section 4 and Appendix C of the Annual Notification Packet includes detailed information for both on-site (Tier 1) and off-site (Tiers 2 and 3) mitigation actions. Details of the on-site (Tier 1) restoration approaches and methods are provided in Chapters 5 and 8 of the SMP Manual. Existing conditions at the maintenance project sites are described in the channel characterizations of Chapter 4 of the SMP Manual.

In terms of off-site mitigation for temporal impacts, four stream restoration projects in Zone 1A, one in Zone 2A have been identified to mitigate for the 2011 maintenance activities. These restoration projects are being conducted by the Cotati Creek Critters, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, Southern Sonoma Resource Conservation District, and The Bay Institute as part of their Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Project. The off-site mitigation projects for 2011 include ecologic enhancement and restoration activities at Copeland Creek, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Lichau Creek, and Roseland Creek. More detail describing these projects is included in Section 4. These off-site watershed based restoration projects are consistent with the expressed goals of the off-site mitigation program to restore impacted habitats, but to also address larger watershed factors related to stream maintenance such as controlling upstream and upland erosion and sediment sources.

As described in the SMP Manual, the combination of on-site and off-site restoration activities represents a holistic approach to address the impacts from maintenance activities by addressing both the impacts of stream maintenance while also addressing/reducing the ongoing need for such maintenance. The off-site mitigation projects provide mitigation for the temporal impacts occurring between the time that maintenance activities occur, and the point at which on-site (Tier 1) restoration activities have become established and provide ecological function equivalent to or greater than the pre-maintenance condition. This year's mitigation approach directly addresses project impacts on-site and also provides important habitat improvements and erosion source reductions in the broader watershed through the off-site (Tier 3) projects. Additionally, native and native "analog" trees (as defined in Appendix E -Vegetation Management) removed in the course of stream work are replaced at specific ratios depending on species (native trees replaced at a 2:1 ratio, and non-native analogs are replaced at a 1.5:1 ratio).

In addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 3 mitigation efforts, SCWA will also be conducting compensatory mitigation for California tiger salamander impacted by the 2011 maintenance projects. For the 2011 field season, SCWA will utilize existing credits purchased and approved in 2010 to offset impacts to California tiger salamander. The 2011 field season will utilize 0.026 acres of the 0.034 acres of credit remaining leaving 0.008 acres. To provide coverage for 2012 and 2013 field season, the Agency will pursue purchasing an additional 0.07 acres of credit from USFWS and CDFG approved local mitigation banks.. Mitigation banking standards for the SMP follow the guidelines in the SMP Biological Opinion with the USFWS and Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination by CDFG for the SMP.

Requested Modifications to Permit Deliverables

Based on project timing, SCWA suggests a few minor changes to the materials submitted with the Annual Notification (May 15th) versus the Annual Report (December 31st). Upon review of the Annual Notification Checklist, the following two items may be more appropriate due to timing for inclusion in the Annual Report:

- *Pre-construction sensitive species survey information and submitted CNDDDB report forms.*

Because pre-construction surveys are generally performed 1-2 weeks prior to ground disturbing and/or commencement of vegetation management activities, these reports will never be completed by the May 15th deadline. As such, we propose submitting these survey results and associated evidence of Best Management Practices (BMPs) (if species are located) with the Annual Report.

- *Results of on-site biological surveys including presence of special-status plants*

While surveys for California Red Legged Frog (CRLF) and other species will be underway by May 15th, floristic surveys and protocol level surveys for CRLF will need to be conducted later in May and through July for certain species. The Annual Notification clearly articulates which projects are slated for specific CRLF and floristic surveys, but we propose submitting these data with the Annual Report based on timing.

The completeness checklist also notes that Channel Characterization Sheets should be provided with the Annual Notification. Since all of these sheets are available in the SMP Manual, SCWA would rather not include these unless the Sheet has been updated with new information. Again, updated Sheets will be provided to all of the resource agencies as they become available (through both the Annual Notification and/or Annual Report). Please note that in the 2010 Annual report updated Reach Sheets were included for the stream reaches where sediment removal and bank repair activities were completed.

In addition, as part of CDFG approval, please note that a supplement to the Annual Notification, containing information on additional vegetation management activities to be completed in 2011, will follow if needed, in August.

Closing

On May 4th the IAWG and SCWA project team will tour the 2011 project sites, including visiting some past maintenance sites and watershed mitigation sites. This will be a valuable opportunity for the IAWG members to get a field-based perspective on the projects, ask questions, and confirm conditions right in the field.

SCWA invites each agency to comment on planned maintenance activities, confirm activities, and/or provide a notice to proceed with the 2011 maintenance projects. If SCWA receives no comment at the conclusion of 30 days, it will be understood that this represents a notice to proceed with the projects included in the 2011 ANR.

Please feel free to contact me, Keenan Foster (kfoster@scwa.ca.gov / (707) 547-1941), directly at SCWA, or our Stream Maintenance Coordinator Jon Niehaus (jon@scwa.ca.gov / 707-521-1845).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keenan Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keenan Foster
Sr. Environmental Specialist

Attachments- Annual Notification for 2011 Maintenance Projects